

Data Sheet

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| USAID Mission: | Montenegro |
| Program Title: | Democratic Transitions |
| Pillar: | Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance |
| Strategic Objective: | 170-0200 |
| Proposed FY 2004 Obligation: | \$7,101,000 AEEB |
| Prior Year Unobligated: | \$350,000 AEEB |
| Proposed FY 2005 Obligation: | \$4,232,000 AEEB |
| Year of Initial Obligation: | 2003 |
| Year of Final Obligation: | 2006 |

Summary: USAID's democracy and governance assistance in Montenegro is concentrated on strengthening the rule of law; civil society; political processes; independent media; and, anti-trafficking initiatives. It provides targeted technical assistance; training; sub-grants; and commodities support to improve the effectiveness, independence, and accountability of the judiciary. The capacity of civil society is developed through support to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), political parties, and independent trade unions to effectively serve and represent citizens.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Judicial reform and rule of law (\$2,800,000 AEEB). The rule of law program was significantly enhanced, in July 2003, with a new judicial reform activity that provides technical expertise, training, and commodity assistance to improve the structure and operations of the judiciary, including the creation of the new Appellate and Administrative Courts and an Administrative Office for the judiciary. The activity works in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the subordinate courts, the Judicial Training Center, and other Montenegrin counterparts. Implementer: Checchi & Company Consulting, Inc.

Civil society and political processes strengthening (\$2,955,000 AEEB). Program assistance encompasses organizational development and advocacy skills building of NGOs; development of political party and parliamentary structures; education of trade unions through technical assistance and training; and sub-grants to local NGOs. Under the Montenegro Advocacy Program, core Montenegrin NGOs will resume building constituencies for judicial, economic, and social reform priorities and conduct public education on legislative initiatives. The political processes program will carry out expertise development assistance to political parties and parliamentary structures to strengthen the party decision-making process and improve internal party operations. In addition, the activity will concentrate technical assistance and training to strengthen legislative oversight and increase citizen participation in Parliament. The trade union activity will focus on building and modernizing trade unions' capacity to interact more effectively with government and employers on issues related to the implementation of economic reform legislation. USAID provides grant funds to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to administer a shelter for victims of trafficking, operated through a local NGO. Other implementers include American Organization for Technical Research and Advanced Training, the National Democratic Institute, and the American Center for International Labor Solidarity.

Independent media support (\$1,346,000 AEEB; \$350,000 AEEB CO). The Montenegro Independent Media Program (MIMP) provides technical assistance, training, and commodity support to core media partners, the Montenegro Media Institute, to advance professional journalism, and the Union of Independent Electronic Media, to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of independent broadcasters. It also provides technical assistance and equipment to support the Montenegrin Broadcasting Company, the weekly magazine Monitor, and the Montenegrin News Agency. MIMP-funded technical assistance has assisted in the implementation of media reform legislation. Radio B92, based in Belgrade, will receive a MIMP sub-grant of \$350,000 in AEEB carryover funds to set up

operations in Montenegro. The B92 media program will fill the existing gap in the flow of news between Serbia and Montenegro. The principal implementer is International Research and Exchange (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Judicial reform and rule of law (\$1,618,000 AEEB). The judicial reform activity will continue providing technical assistance, training, and commodity support to implement the rules and procedures relating to the new Appellate and Administrative Courts and the Administrative Office established under the Courts Act. Technical assistance, training, and commodities support will concentrate on improving court operations and will include the provision of expert advice in judicial skills and court management. The activity will organize study visits on case management and court administration; establish a pilot on-site training program in cooperation with the Judicial Training Center; and implement facility upgrades in the courts, including information technology. Principal contractor is: Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. (prime)

Civil society and political processes strengthening (\$1,714,000 AEEB). The MAP will implement its exit strategy and leave behind an infrastructure of advocacy resource centers, including the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) based in Podgorica, and three additional regional advocacy centers. A one year follow-on activity is expected, making the ARC primarily responsible for administering advocacy skills-building and organizational development sub-grants to NGOs with advisory support from American ORT. The political processes activity will continue through February 2006. During the final two-year period, NDI will phase out of its political party and parliamentary development program in Montenegro, leaving in place internal party capacity to continue long-term reform and development initiatives, along with a parliamentary structure that is capable of representing citizens and functioning efficiently and transparently. The labor reform activity will phase out in FY 2005. Key elements of the activity, such as the establishment of economic and social councils throughout the Republic will continue under other appropriate USAID programs. USAID will continue to fund anti-trafficking initiatives such as grant support to operate a shelter for victims of trafficking or a public awareness campaign against trafficking.

Independent media (\$900,000 AEEB). A two-year follow-on activity is planned, to continue technical assistance, training, and commodities support for the advancement of professional journalism, business management, and implementation of the new legal and regulatory framework. This grant should ensure that advances made under the MIMP are irreversible and sustainable.

Performance and Results: The program made identifiable gains in improving the capacity of citizens to participate more effectively and knowledgeably in the reform process of Montenegro. Gains occurred in independent media as the Media Sustainability Index (MSI) for 2002 registered jumps in three essential areas: a 43% increase in media professionalism; a 64% rise in business/management of media outlets; and a 24% increase in free speech. As well, gains were made in the increased number (200) of outreach communications by political party leadership to voters and local party leaders in Montenegro's 21 municipalities. An improvement in FY 2003 from the previous year as it relates to the judiciary's capacity to protect citizens' essential civil and economic rights, there was also a 30% positive score across the 30 judicial reform indicators addressed in the Judicial Reform Index. While there was progress in an increased number of NGO advocacy initiatives and NGO-government cooperation, the NGO Sustainability Index 2003 score remained in the mid-transition range, signifying that the NGO sector as a whole is not yet sustainable.